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1. Dept hopeful that statements by Dept's press spokesman January 22 (see TOPOL 2403) including denial of any QUOTE Murphy plan UNQUOTE will deflate speculative balloons launched in various press stories last few days re U.S. position on Berlin and Germany.

2. Dept is sympathetic to objective described reftel but it literally true that there is no RPT no QUOTE tentative thinking UNQUOTE on substance which has reached point at this time where it could usefully be provided to other NATO governments. There is also problem of presenting unilateral views prior to quadripartite consultation.

3. We are obviously in for considerable period of speculation and counter-speculation, which likely become more intense as preparation of Western replies to Soviet January 10 notes proceed, and substantive review goes forward. It continues be our firm intention have full NAC consultation and discussion as soon as would be fruitful and we bearing in mind question of public opinion in

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NATO countries not RPT not having special responsibilities in dealing with German problem. We would hope that Spaak would give lead in NAC in maintaining calm, confident tone in Council discussions and in recognizing that political consultative process in this case, as in others handled so successfully during past year, <sup>will yield</sup> ~~RECEIVED~~ most beneficial results when adequately prepared. Suggest you discuss problem frankly with SecGen~~x~~ and be guided by foregoing if matter arises in NAC.

4. Contingency planning question is in different category and we will comment separately.

*Duller  
(FDK)*

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